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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0637
INFO RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 2180
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 7351
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1411
RUEHKF/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 6799
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 2939
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 1361
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2705
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 003200

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SUBJECT: PAKISTAN POLITICAL LANDSCAPE, PART 2: FRACTURED OPPOSITION PREPARES FOR ELECTIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 3199

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

11. (C) Summary: Unable to unite at the All Parties Conference (APC) for en masse resignations or mass street protests, Pakistan's severely fractured political party landscape is the second in a series exploring Pakistan's political party landscape in the run-up to elections.
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ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE

13. (U) On July 7-8, representatives from all opposition parties met in London to discuss a coordinated strategy in the months leading to the general elections. The meeting was largely overshadowed by the government's military operation against the Red Mosque in Islamabad, and received little press coverage.
14. (C) Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto sent low-level PPP representatives to the APC, despite her presence in London, because of her continued influence.
15. (C) At the APC, most parties called for the opposition to resign en masse if Musharraf held presidential elections under the current assembly.
16. (U) After two days of talks the opposition cobbled together a declaration that is a series of complaints against the government, including:

ALL PARTIES DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

17. (C) After the APC, Nawaz Sharif formed a new coalition called the All Parties Democratic Alliance (APDA) that includes all opposition parties.
18. (SBU) APDA held its first meeting in Islamabad on July 23. They have also planned rallies in Quetta on August 9 and Rawalpindi on August 14.

POLITICAL TURNING POINTS

19. (C) On July 18, President Musharraf announced publicly that he will seek re-election under the current electoral college (made up of the senior military, judges, and members of parliament).
- MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO UNITE, POWER POLITICS

20. (C) Comment: The APC was not taken seriously from the beginning, dooming it to produce a watered-down and emotional declaration. Parties were not united.
- PATTERSON